the poor farmers in developing countries are seriously jeopardized by the subsidies and market access barriers prevailing in international agricultural trade, and that any Round that would be faithful to its development dimension must urgently redress this situation. This position has been reiterated since then by India, and others. On 16 November, 2006 it has been agreed to resume work in all the negotiating groups across all areas of the Doha Work Programme.

India-China Eminent Persons' Group meeting

9. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a meeting of the India-China Eminent Persons' Group in the last week of September, 2006 to discuss trade and other economic issues;

(b) if so, the details of the meeting;

(c) whether it is a fact that China registered its concern before Government over blacklisting some of its companies;

(d) if so, the details of companies that have been blacklisted and the reasons behind blacklisting; and

(e) whether this move will have any impact on the bilateral trade turnover of US$ 18 billion between India and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fifth meeting of the India-China Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) was held in New Delhi during September 25-26, 2006. The Co-Chairman on the Indian and Chinese sides were Shri C.V. Ranganathan and Mr. Liu Shuqing respectively. The meeting discussed various issues relating to India-China bilateral relations including political and bilateral, trade and economy, education, culture, News media and Journalism education, tourism, science and technology etc. and made Joint Rcommendations for the consideration of the two governments and relevant ministries/departments.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The minutes of the said meeting do not reflect any such concern shown by the Chinese side over blacklisting of some of its companies.

Safeguards in patent laws

10. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug companies have requested Government to ensure that crucial safeguards are introduced while amending the existing patent laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Views of all stakeholders as communicated to Government are duly considered at every level. There is no proposal to further amend the Patents Act, 1970. The existing patent law contains provisions for ensuring availability of patented products at reasonable and affordable prices. These *inter-alia* include provisions for compulsory licence, use of patent for public non-commercial use, dealing with emergent situations, parallel import, acquisition of patent rights by Government, use of patent for research and education and revocation of patent in public interest.

Stagnating Indo-Russian trade

11. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for stagnation of Indo-Russian trade at US $ 2 billions for more than a decade;

(b) whether any trade working groups consisting of both the countries have been constituted to increase bilateral trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;